

Old Court House
Greensburg, Kentucky

Green Co.

HABS No. 20-4

HABS

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District No. 20

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey
G. M. Grimes, District Officer
304 Martin Brown Building
Louisville, Kentucky

Name of structure: Old Court House

Location: Greensburg, Green County, Kentucky

Owner or
custodian: County Judge J. W. Moore

Address: Greensburg, Kentucky

Date built: 1799-1802
(approx)

Architect
or builder: Thomas "Stonehammer" Metcalf

Present
condition: Good

Number of
stories: Two stories

Material used
in construction: Foundation: Native stone.
Exterior walls: Native stone.
Interior partitions: Frame, plastered.
First floor: Metal ceiling
(added later).
Second floor: plastered ceiling.
Roof: Tin (not original).
Floors: Wood.

Description: This is claimed to be the third Court
architectural House erected in the State of Kentucky,
and historical and the only one of this type left
standing.

The builder, or architect, was Thomas
"Stonehammer" Metcalf who became the tenth governor of
Kentucky, 1828-1832, and later served as United States
Senator.

From newspaper clippings on file at the
Louisville Free Public Library the following information
was obtained:

Old files still preserved in Green County show, that the first lawyer admitted to the Greensburg bar was General James Allen in 1792, who was the son of a Revolutionary veteran.

Records dated 1798, and on file, show the following:

General James Allen, first Clerk of County Court,
Nathaniel Owen, first Sheriff.
A. M. Wakefield, first Circuit Court Judge.

Such famous men in Kentucky history practiced at the bar in Greensburg, as shown by old records:

John Rowan, who built "Federal Hill", was admitted to the bar in 1795, and was one of those who helped in remodeling the Constitution of Kentucky, August 22, 1799.

General James Allen
Benjamin Hardin
Thos. W. Lisle
Richard Buckner
Robert Wickliffe
Allen Wakefield
John Emerson
Samuel Brents
Col. Wm. Owens
Henry P. Broadnox
Benjamin G. Burks
Maj. George Washington Towles
William T. Willis
General Samuel A. Spencer

There are many records dating back to 1792 still on file in Green County. One of these is the original letter written in 1792 by Walter Beall, Culpepper County, Virginia, to William Barnett, then at Glover's Station, now Greensburg, Kentucky, instructing Barnett to lay off a plan of 100 acres of land, in lots containing one-fourth acre each, with two main cross streets, each seventy-five feet wide, and forming a central square containing one acre exclusive of the intersecting streets.

G. M. Grimes

Reviewed 1936 by W.C.F.